REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-25 and 33-38 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. The amendment does not include new matter and is fully supported by the application. In particular, support for amended claim 1 can be found, *inter alia*, on pages 11-12 of the application, as originally filed.

Applicants' Response to 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1, 3-25 and 33-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above-amendments and following remarks.

The Examiner alleges that the limitations of "in the absence of albumin or salts" and "is not contaminated" burden on of skill in the art with undue experimentation to practice the invention in commensurate in scope with the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have added a few clarifying terms to claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, reads as follows:

> 1. A method to immobilise at least one type of carbohydrate molecule comprising the steps of:
> i) providing a monomer source comprising one or more organic compounds which are capable of polymerization;
> ii) creating a plasma of said monomer source;
> iii) contacting a surface with said plasma to provide a plasma polymer coated surface;
> iv) contacting said plasma polymer coated surface with a solution of at least one type of biologically active carbohydrate molecule in its native form, wherein the plasma polymer coated surface is not modified prior to contacting with said carbohydrate molecule in its native form; and
> v) incubating said non-modified plasma polymer coated surface with said carbohydrate molecule in its native form, whereby, during incubation, the carbohydrate molecule is passively adsorbed to said non-modified plasma polymer coated surface, in the absence of albumin or salts, binds with said ~~on the~~ non-modified plasma polymer coated surface and is thereby immobilized on said

non-modified plasma polymer coated surface in the absence of albumin or salts, such that the carbohydrate molecule remains in its native form, is not contaminated and retains its biological activity.

The Examiner cites the Wands Factors in arriving at the conclusion that the claims are not sufficiently enabled. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended herein, satisfy the enablement requirement. One of skill in the art, based on reading the claims in light of the specification, would appreciate that the carbohydrate is passively adsorbed directly to the plasma polymerized surface. One of skill in the art would also appreciate that there is no salt/protein interaction between the plasma polymerized surface and the carbohydrate during incubation.

Furthermore, one of skill in the art would appreciate that directly binding the carbohydrate to the plasma polymerized surface is patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicants' Response to 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph Rejection

Claims 1, 3-25 and 33-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above-amendments and following remarks.

The Examiner alleges that the limitation set forth in method step v) is not sufficiently described carbohydrates in their native form "in a manner that would indicate they were in possession of the full scope of this genus". Applicants respectfully disagree.

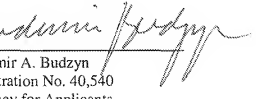
The Examiner makes the following statements: "It is not clear what portion, if any, of a heparin molecule, or any other carbohydrate molecule, in its native form, would be required to be immobilized to said surface in the absence of a salt." (Office Action, at page 16). The Examiner also alleges the following:

> It is not clear what physical or chemical properties of a carbohydrate in its native form are required to practice the claimed method of immobilization in the absence of salts. It is also not clear what functional characteristic(s) would be required for a carbohydrate to be immobilized in the absence of salts, to remain in its native state and to retain its biological activity; as required by step v) of Claim 1.
>
> (Office Action, at pages 16-17)

As stated in detail above, in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments sufficiently clarify the claims and overcome the Examiner's rejection regarding written description. One of skill in the art would appreciate that the carbohydrate is directly bound to the non-modified plasma polymerized surface. One of skill in the art would also appreciate that there is no salt/protein interaction between the plasma polymerized surface and the carbohydrate during incubation.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions or if additional information is required, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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